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THE FARMERS' CABINET;

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, AND RURAL ECONOMY.

Vol. I. Philadelphia, July 1, 1837. No. 24.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

A Trip to Maryland.

We passed over the Bridge at Wilmington, into the rich alluvial bottoms of the Christiana Creek, which extends nearly a mile from the city. The causeway is hemmed with two rows of beautiful trees, and surrounded with luxuriant pasture grounds, that have, within these few years, been very considerably cultivated and improved. The high land immediately connecting those rich bottoms, is gravelly and poor, but the immense amount of manure produced by the marshes, enables the farmer to force vegetation in every corner of his farm, and thus make his habitation a place of comfort and plenty.

The land through New Castle county is tolerably well improved; much of it is under cultivation, and the crops of wheat look well and bid fair to produce at least an average quantity; oats and corn not forward enough to form any opinion.

In Maryland, where the ruinous three field system of farming prevails, the wheat looks bad enough to alarm one with the fear of want, notwithstanding some of her most intelligent citizens are inclined to the opinion, that the prospect is in favor of a medium crop.

As we advance towards the table land that divides the waters which flow into the Delaware and Chesapeake, we find a kind of soil perhaps the most congenial to the growth of wheat of any in the United States, and why it is not a subject of deeper interest to the inhabitants of Pennsylvania, particularly to the enterprising citizens of Chester and Delaware counties, is a matter of some surprise.

In Chestertown we found land selling at five dollars per acre, and shell lime at six cents per bushel, neither of which seemed to excite any anxiety among the farmers, though the land was about a mile from the wharf, and the wharf within a few hours sailing of the city of Baltimore.

On many of the farms upon the Eastern Shore, there are immense beds of shells spread over acres of land, and in some places six or seven feet deep, in a perfectly sound state, yet covered with mould, perhaps the growth and decomposition of grass and trees for many a century. A white oak that measured fifteen feet in circumference, had once reared his lofty head over those banks, but was now prostrate in a wilderness of underwood, with his tangled roots jammed full of shells, and most of them without any appearance of ever having touched the earth. Shells make the purest and best of lime; by a chemical analysis, it is found to contain little or none of those foreign substances that constitute from twenty to thirty, and in some cases, as much as forty-five per cent. of stone lime.

Shell lime can be had on the Eastern Shore at a very small expense, compared with what a Pennsylvania farmer pays for stone lime, even if he should be so fortunate as to have a lime stone quarry upon his farm; and yet such is the desponding condition of agriculture in this country, that little or no attention is paid to the subject.

We visited Whurton Point, a high bluff of rolling land that projects some distance into the Chesapeake, and forms rather a pleasant prospect of land and water scenery; but what was far more interesting, were the beds of shells which cover a space perhaps of fifty acres from one to six feet deep.

This property lies nearly opposite the mouth of the Susquehanna, which is constantly disgorging great quantities of all kinds of drift wood upon the shore. With this

wood they burn the shell lime at an expense of about two cents per bushel.

The proprietors of this estate live in Delaware, and are making efforts to introduce the Pennsylvania mode of farming into the neighborhood; they have now on hand thirty thousand bushels of shell lime, which is to be drawn out this season and spread at the rate of one hundred bushels to the acre for the next year's crop. We had taken with us small quantities of Ruta Baga, Mangle Wurtzle, and Sugar Beet seed, and here we found a person willing to prepare a piece of ground to try the experiment of root culture with the siftings or dust from the shells as a manure. We likewise engaged him to make an experiment upon an acre of poor land in raising of wheat. We directed him to turn the land down with the plough, spread upon it one hundred bushels of shell lime, sow it with three bushels of oats; when the oats had grown up and was beginning to change its color, roll it down, plough it in and sow the ground with two bushels of corn broad cast; about the second week in October, roll the corn down, plough it in and sow the ground with wheat. To give this experiment a fair trial, the oats should have been sown in the early part of the fourth month.

I am inclined to the opinion that the above plan would make the principal part of Delaware and Maryland produce twenty bushels of wheat to the acre, which, at $1 50 per bushel would buy the land and pay all expenses of lime, seed and labor, and if laid down with clover, would, for a succession of years, produce good crops of hay and pasture. Such an investment of idle money would be more profitable than shaving notes at two per cent. a month, besides the additional security of real estate, and the satisfaction every generous mind must feel in the reflection that his labor has made two blades of grass grow where one grew before. This Peninsula possesses local advantages that few places in our country can boast. A soil peculiarly adapted to raising of grain, one that is easily improved and very difficult to wear out. It is watered with such a number of creeks, outlets and bays, that many of their farms are bounded by navigable streams, and very few indeed that lie further than five or six miles from a landing where abundance of lime and plaster can be had at reasonable prices; stone lime from the Schuylkill sells from sixteen to twenty cents per bushel, and shell lime at about half the price.

While so many are enamored with the "far west," parting with their friends, their homes, and their firesides, for a prospect of buying land cheap, and being independent, for $1 25 per acre, could here buy hundreds of acres for less than nothing, compared with the wild lands of the west, and that too within a day's journey of three of the largest cities in the Union. I say less than nothing, for such is the depressed state of agriculture in the peninsula, that farms are often sold for less than the buildings, fences and other improvements have cost.

It is certainly a question of some importance, whether the worn-out lands of Delaware, Maryland, and other parts of our country cannot be improved at less expense than to clear off the almost impenetrable forests of the west. When we consider the time it necessarily occupies to clear and make ready for the plough an hundred acres of heavy timbered land, the expense of labor, where labor is not easily obtained, the distance from market, the privations and hardships inseparably connected with new settlements; it seems at least worthy of an experiment to ascertain the fact. A SUBSCRIBER.

Wilmington, Del., 5th mo. 18, 1837.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Agricultural Implements.

NO. IX.

THE THRESHING MACHINE.

A machine for this purpose requires great care in the materials and proportions, owing to the liability of coming in contact with sticks, stones, and other foreign substances: therefore, it is best either to have all the parts so strong as not to be injured by them, or some part to give way and thereby save the other parts. A cylinder to turn with considerable velocity, having spikes or projections in its periphery moving between other similar projections in a fixed concave, is, probably, the best kind of a machine for grain in every stage of dryness. One of the former kind may be made with a hollow iron cylinder, the ends composed of cast, and the shaft, projections, and periphery of wrought or malleable iron; the projections are made tapering and passed part way out through openings cut in the periphery, not quite so large as the larger end of the projections; each projection has a key through it, parallel with the centre of the cylinder, so as to press with great force against the periphery, and thereby force the projection outwards and confine it firmly to the cylinder. The concave and projections within it may be composed of cast iron, all in one piece, and be confined by bolts and nuts to a frame of iron or wood.

The latter kind may be composed of spikes or projections that will bend when coming in contact with sticks, stones, &c. and which may be bent back (or returned) to their proper position without breaking, and are confined firmly to a cylinder and concave of

wood. A machine for this purpose may be driven by a horse upon the *portable horse mill* described in a former communication. Grain secured within the field (when cut) in small stacks, and when dry threshed, and the chaff and grain left together, until immediately before grinding the grain, would (probably) preserve the grain from injury, to which it is always liable by sweating, when placed in large masses together, either in barns or stacks, and which is, probably, one of the causes of northern flour being generally inferior to that from the south.

The straw, after the grain is threshed from it, might be secured in large stacks or in a barn.

Chester co., Pa., 13th June, 1837.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Many inquiries have been made of the writer of this, respecting the proper time to cut timber in order to prevent the rapid destruction of it from worms, exposure to heat and moisture, or from dry rot, and not having practical knowledge sufficient to answer the question, I take the liberty of asking for information from the various readers of the *Cabinet*.

This is a subject of great importance. Houses and other buildings, fences, bridges, carriages of various kinds, agricultural implements, ships and other vessels are composed in part of timber, to which we may add streets, and rail roads;—consequently any additional knowledge respecting the most suitable time to cut each particular kind of timber communicated through the columns of the Cabinet, might be the means of conferring a great benefit upon the nation.

The particular situation and purpose that each kind of timber is best fitted for, would likewise offer a wide field for observation and remarks through the same channels. A knowledge of the relative cost and utility of each particular substance to preserve timber from either of the aforesaid causes of destruction, or from any other cause, would be of service to the public.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Broken Limbs of Animals.

An idea prevails with many persons, that broken limbs of horses and other quadrupeds cannot be cured, owing to the difficulty of keeping the part sufficiently at rest during the time necessary for a broken bone to heal or acquire sufficient strength to support its share of the animal's weight.

I heard of a case some months since which was successfully treated in the following manner, viz: Two pieces of scantling sufficiently strong to support the horse, were placed over and parallel with him in the stable; a piece of strong linen was then passed under him and the two opposite ends confined to the scantling so as to raise him from the ground or floor when required; a wooden box was provided with a bottom, two sides, and one end, composed of boards nailed together, and of sufficient length, width, and depth, to contain the leg from the knee to the foot, inclusive, besides a space of half an inch or more, on each side of the leg to admit the necessary bandages, &c. with the bottom cut away sufficiently for the foot to enter and retain its natural relative position with the leg. The broken leg was confined in this box and treated in the usual manner that bones are when broken, and the box together with the leg from the knee to the foot confined in a horizontal position or nearly so, by straps of leather or other suitable substances passed over the horse's back and the two ends confined to the box; the horse was permitted to put his other three feet upon the floor sufficiently to preserve a healthy action to the limbs, but not so as to permit him to displace the broken limb in the box and injure it. A cure was effected in the course of a few weeks. This was one of the anterior (or fore) legs. I see no difficulty in treating a hind leg by partially suspending the animal in this manner and varying the other parts according to the particular nature of the case.

Chester co., Pa., June, 1837.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

"Does the Pith of the Horn waste, yea or nay."

I thank Observer very much for his simile of the cloak and the wind. I never should have thought of so apt a likeness. I would rather undertake to find even a hollow horn than an image in nature so appropriate. I hope Observer will excuse me, for I am tempted to say his reply was like unto the north wind,—loud, rough, and empty.

Observer says he is "willing to pursue the investigation of facts, let what will become of the cloak;" I am willing to hold fast to the cloak let what will become of the "wind," or in other words, I love a good warm dress during a storm.

I am glad to see that Observer has admitted the fact, that "horns may become hollow by ordinary caries like other bones," which settles the question in the affirmative, as to "the existence of hollow horn" from that cause. It is true Observer has such a dislike to hollow horns, that he will not own a horn hollow, without it has been deprived of its internal substance according to his own notion.

He strives hard to show that a horn made hollow by ordinary caries, is not the hollow

horn; or in other words, that a horn may be hollow, and not hollow at the same time. But it must be obvious to every unprejudiced OBSERVER, that any disease, no matter what, which produces "corrupted horn, putrid horn, rotten horn," and eventually discharges the bone out of the horn, must leave an empty horn, and consequently a hollow horn, in the simple sense of the term.

I know of no stronger proof of the existence of hollow horn than the absence of the internal structure; and I assure Observer that when death is produced by such violent diseases as he has told us the horn is subject to, it will be no consolation to the farmer to know that a horn made hollow by ordinary caries, is not the hollow horn according to the "generic sense."

As I have given Observer information that has enabled him to find a hollow horn for himself, I feel pretty much out of danger from his challenge, and hope that he will not expect me to continue the discussion upon the mere existence, or non-existence of the hollow horn. The fact is now admitted, "that hollow horn exists;" that the bony part of the pith wastes away by a disease to which "all bones are liable." But as I am now in the way of cutting and splitting up old horns, I am willing to open a discussion upon the pithy part of the bone.

I assume this position, that if there is a disease that wastes away the bony part of the pith, a disease of a less virulent character will waste away the pithy part of the bone. Our readers will here see the distinction. The pith of the horn is altogether a spongy bone; there is no part of it but what is soft, when compared with some other bones; but some parts of this pith are much softer than other parts, and it is those soft and more spongy parts that I now propose to examine. I have, since my last essay, dissected a number of piths from horns of cattle slaughtered for the market, by which I am enabled to make comparisons between the piths of diseased cattle and the piths from cattle in good health. The result of those examinations has not as yet furnished ocular proof of the pith wasting away; but there are some facts that leave the conjecture entirely upon that side. These facts I intend to arrange for a future number of the Cabinet, and leave the conclusion to the public. In the mean time I hope to hold fast to my cloak, and to be indulged in the orthodox belief of the wasting of the pith, according to Dr. Tofts, who says in the 1st vol. of the Memoirs of the American Academy, "that this spongy bone is sometimes partially, and sometimes wholly consumed."

I stated in my former essay, that upon examination, I found a number of piths decayed and rotten toward the point, which fact I concluded, favoured the opinion of piths being more liable to disease than any other bone. Observer says it was "animal matter, not the bone which he found rotten." Now there is no possible means by which Observer could know that the statement here made is true; he never saw the piths which I have described; he knows nothing of them, only by reasoning from other piths which he has seen; yet he rounds off a paragraph in as positive a manner as if he was speaking of a matter of fact. I examined the piths of bones, and *knew them to be rotten*, or I should not have made the statement.

In my last essay, I suggested to Observer what I thought would be an improvement in his method of controversy; but he seems to have profited little by the hint. This positive manner might be useful in a political contest, where the merits of a cause depend upon its success; or in a polemical controversy, where the dictum of authority supersedes the necessity of reason; but in the arts and sciences, in the investigation of facts that are to unfold new truths and useful discoveries to mankind; where the paths of knowledge are untrodden and every step is in darkness; the mind revolts at a gratuitous parade of information where all are equally ignorant, all inquirers, all learners.

Observer says he "pleads guilty of the folly of pretending to a knowledge of things." I have charged him with no such folly, it was the folly of pretending to a knowledge of the ABSENCE of things, and he acknowledges himself justly charged with "that excess of information which denies the existence of hollow horn." If Observer would say that he doubts the existence of hollow horn, he would speak rationally; but to deny the existence of hollow horn, or of any thing else, is irrational and nothing short of folly; it is a folly because the non-existence of a thing cannot be proved, and what cannot be proved, must always remain a matter of doubt, and matters of doubt are not subjects to which we can either affirm or deny. Again: Observer says "it is dangerous to persist in supporting an opinion without proof." So far from it being dangerous to support opinions in the absence of proof, it is the only time that mere opinions can be properly supported.

Theories, opinions, and belief range under the head of probabilities; in this state they are fit subjects for investigation, for inquiry, for analogy, and for rational conclusion; but the moment proof is obtained, they cease to be matters of opinion, they are then knowledge; for instance, the most simple man when caught in a shower, never says he believes it rains, or that it is his opinion that it rains, but he speaks of it as a matter of fact, because he knows it.

These remarks upon Observer's articles, are not made in a fault-finding disposition, nor with any pretensions to literary knowledge, but with a desire that they may be received without offence, and be useful in introducing a more agreeable manner of investigation, and one more in accordance with the subjects under discussion; or in figurative language I would say, that the SUN with his gentle rays, would much sooner induce the traveler to part with his "cloak," than Boreas with all his roar of noise and "*wind*."

A SUBSCRIBER.

Wilmington, 6th mo. 10, 1837.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Cabinet.

The discussion between two of your correspondents in relation to the "horn distemper," seems to have arrived at that point which each one has avowed himself equally anxious to avoid; viz. a dispute on words. I think nothing can be plainer to an *impartial* observer, than that they are perfectly agreed in the main matter disputed between them. They both assert the existence of a disorder among cattle which causes the horns to become hollow. One contends that it is the "hollow horn," but the other controverts this position, and asserts that it is something else. The case seems to stand thus, "*horns become hollow*," vs. "*hollow horn*." Now this appears to me so equally balanced, that it is quite immaterial which *horn* of the dilemma is chosen. "OBSERVER" has, however, endeavored to escape both horns by bringing in the polled cattle as subject to the same complaint,—but this does not alter the case, unless he can prove that all cattle are of that description.

He has devoted all his ingenuity (and no little does it require) to prove the difference —to render plain the paradox;—and to show the very nice distinction between "*horns hollow*" and "*hollow horns*."

"'Tis strange what difference there should be
Twixt tweedle dum and tweedle dee!"

But seriously; though I sincerely admire "Observer's" zeal, and think highly of his observations on other subjects; on this one he is certainly wrong, not only in his opinion but in his manner of supporting it. In spite of every disposition to judge favorably, one of two conclusions must force itself on the mind; that either his horns or his words *are* hollow.

I should be very sorry to hurt Observer's feelings in any way;* but if the truth is severe it is no fault of mine. I have endeavored to show the folly of disputes on words, for it is only these kind of differences that create bitterness of feeling; no one is angry at another for denying a mathematical truth, or believing that the world is flat; but wherever there is a distinction without a difference, we are sure to find the most determined disputes; the most confident assertions, and the most zealous partizans.

In conclusion, I avow my belief in the existence of a disease among cattle, which may be relieved by boring the horn and allowing the decayed matter to escape. It would be superfluous to bring proof of a fact that I have never yet heard doubted by any person "ignorant" or learned. A FARMER.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

It seems to be the opinion of some persons, that fat and oily substances and vegetable acids do not attack copper while hot. Can any of the readers of the cabinet give an explanation upon this subject?

If correct, what is the temperature at which either will begin to act on the copper? This is a subject of great importance in domestic economy.

Raising and Preserving Pumpkins.

A worthy and intelligent subscriber to the Cabinet, residing in Pittsgrove, Salem county, New Jersey, has sent us a communication in answer to the inquiry in our 20th number, as to the best method of preserving pumpkins. As we are cramped for room in the present number, we can only give the following abridgement of his communication. He states that for the last few years, he has had no difficulty in preserving pumpkins, from six to nine months. His plan is to gather them when they are fully ripe, (by all means before a frost falls,) and then keep them in a warm, dry place. He states that in October, 1835, he had a pumpkin of the ordinary kind raised in Jersey, about one foot in diameter, called the "cheese pumpkin," brought in from the field; it was placed on the corner of a cupboard, and there left until March last—a period of about twenty months—during

*OBSERVER possesses too much good sense, to suffer his feelings to be wounded by observations of this nature. We are assured that his object in pursuing this controversy has been to elicit truth, and thereby correct the popular and prevailing errors on an important subject. That good may result from a well tempered and judicious discussion, admits of no doubt. OBSERVER has given his opinion frankly. If the position he has assumed is untenable, let it be demonstrated by argument. We want facts, on this and on every subject of moment to that class to whose interests the Cabinet is devoted—and we know from conversation with many of our readers, as well as from the fact that the articles in question have been copied into a number of the public journals, that it has been the means of exciting the attention of many to an investigation of the disease usually called "*hollow horn*." We hope to hear often from "*Observer*" and "*A Subscriber*,"—on subjects within the range of our work: And, if "*A Farmer*" can, by the force of argument, dislodge "*Observer*" from the position he has assumed, our columns are at his service.

which time it remained in a state of perfect preservation. This, he thinks, is owing to three circumstances. 1. The pumpkin being fully ripe, and uninjured by frost when brought in. 2. A fire being kept in the room during the winter, and 3. The air being allowed a free passage during the warm weather. Subscriber is of the opinion, that great profit may be realized by cultivating this article as food for swine and cattle—and, he would respectfully solicit, through the pages of the Cabinet, information as to the best kinds of pumpkins, and the most improved method of raising them.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Cement.—Four parts chalk, mixed with five parts fresh clay, is said to have an adhesive property equal to five thousand pounds.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Gas from Resin compared with that from Oil, is said to possess valuable properties in the proportion of nine to five in favor of that from Resin.

A Picture.

BY CHARLES MINER, ESQ.

It would seem hard to say that we are an ungrateful people. But listen to the language of complaint. Our newspapers are weekly pouring forth the most melancholy notes, approaching almost to despair; yet what is our situation? Is it one demanding the liveliest expressions of gratitude and joy, or of querulousness and discontent? Rouse yourself, my friend, if you have any doubt,—come, go with me—let us clamber yonder hill—look abroad—Is not this a goodly prospect? The stream that we see to the east and south, is the Delaware—the river far to the west, is the Susquehanna. The clear waters which fertilize that valley of the north, are the French Creek and the Schuylkill. Behold these numerous brooks which run east and south to the Delaware, they water, and in their course impart health; fertility and wealth to Delaware county—those which flow west and south into the Susquehanna, are the Conestoga and Octoraro, which, with their tributary rills, pass through Lancaster; and the lovely stream that murmurs at our feet, is the Brandywine—I need not say, that yonder charming city is Philadelphia—nor need I mention to you the names of towns and villages which lie within our view—but the eye now embraces a population of more than 300,000 inhabitants. Look closer—if you can withdraw your eye from gazing on so delightful a prospect as the whole presents—look closer—separate the parts from the whole—take a single plantation, the one on our right, for instance—do you see that stone house—that large barn—those meadows spotted and enlivened by those milch cows, those fattening cattle and sheep—observe the fields yellow with grain—could you see the inside of the mansion, you would find the drawers full of those things which render a family neat and comfortable—the cellar stored with plenty, and the table crowned with abundance. "And what of these?" I reply, that the picture of this farm is the likeness of the thousands and tens of thousands that lie under our view. The farmer is the lord of the soil—he has no proud duke or marquis to come annually to show his superiority and demand the evidence of his vassalage—the tythe pig he roasts for his table, and he snaps his fingers at the taxgatherer. In truth, he knows nothing of want or oppression, but by name.

Under this blue sky—with these clear waters—in this lovely clime—with a government of his own choice, enjoying the most perfect freedom; where on this earth is there now, or was there ever, a people who had so many causes for joy and thanksgiving—and so few for repining. Our cup is full and overflowing with blessings. We are like a pampered child, fed so profusely that we do not know how to enjoy the luxuries that are crowded before us.

A Suggestion for the coming year.

A gentleman of high respectability informs us, that the following mode of sowing winter wheat in the spring has been partially adopted in Tennessee, with the happiest success. In early winter the seed grain is put into casks, and water enough added to soak and cover it. It is then exposed so that the water becomes frozen, and it is kept in this state as far as practicable, until the soil is fit for its reception in the spring. It is well known that the operation of frost upon the seed of winter grain has the same effect as if it is sown in autumn—as wheat or rye sown at the setting in of winter will grow and mature. The advantages which are experienced from sowing in the spring are, 1st, that the grain is not subject to be winter killed; 2d, it escapes the Hessian fly in Autumn, and possibly it may escape it in the spring; 3d, the ground being fresh stirred for spring sowing, the growth will be more vigorous; and 4th, as it will come into ear late, there is at least a probability that the crop may escape the grain worm. The advantages are so manifest, that the experiment is worth a trial; and we shall feel obliged to some Tennessee correspondent who will give us the details and result of the practice in that state.

Introduction of Turnep Husbandry in England.

A correspondent of the Boston Courier, speaking of the introduction of the sugar beet into this country, makes some forcible remarks on the prodigious impulse which the prosperity of a nation may receive by the introduction of a single new plant, which he illustrates by the following historical fact:—

In an early part of the reign of George the First, the culture of the turnep was limited in England to a few gardens, as that of the beet now is with us, and used almost exclusively for culinary purposes. That monarch, in one of his visits to his electorate of Hanover, was attended by his secretary of state, Lord Townsend; whilst residing there, this nobleman was struck by the appearance of extensive fields devoted to the culture of the turnep, as food for cattle and sheep; impressed with the belief that this method might be introduced with advantage into his own country, he, before leaving Germany, took care to provide himself with seed, and, on his return, earnestly recommended to his tenants a practice, which, in Hanover, had been found to produce the most favorable results. His wishes were attended to, and the experiment surpassed in success, his most sanguine expectations. The field culture of the turnep spread rapidly through the county of Norfolk, which, from that epoch, dates its high reputation as an agricultural district. Lands, which rented for one or two shillings an acre, soon brought fifteen or twenty, and sterile warrens, on which were to be seen only a few half-starved rabbits, were reclaimed, and are now covered with rich harvests of grain. Colquohoun, in his statistical researches, computes that the annual value of a crop of turneps *in Norfolk* alone, amounts to no less than fifteen millions sterling. When it is considered that this root has been the means of bringing under culture lands which, without it, must have remained valueless; that it leaves the soil in a condition to ensure a good crop of grain or grass, and that the latter is a good preparation for wheat, we may safely consider the benefits resulting to England from the turnep culture as incalculable. If it was now asked, says Colquhoun, who was the man, in modern times, who had rendered England the most signal service, no one should hesitate to say, that it was the nobleman whom shallow courtiers nicknamed in derision, "Turnep Townsend." In half a century the turneps spread over the three kingdoms, and their yearly value, at this day, says the same author, is not inferior in amount to the interest of the national debt! ! !

From the Maine Farmer.

Questions and Answers.

What is the average crop of Ruta Baga to the acre, on land well manured and taken care of?

Answer. Six hundred bushels, each bushel weighing 64 pounds, after being well cleared of tops, dirt, and small roots. Much greater crops have often been produced; say from one to two thousand bushels to the acre, or at that rate on smaller lots.

What are they worth, ton for ton, or pound for pound, for stock, compared with good English hay, corn, potatoes, apples, &c.?

A. When properly fed out, they may save hay, pound for pound; because if given in any considerable quantities, stock may be kept in good condition, if poor hay, or even straw be added. They are worth more than potatoes in equal weight; and as much as apples, and less liable to decay. To keep a creature in decent flesh, with hay, five bushels of Ruta Baga are equal to a bushel of meal.

What kind of stock is it best and most profitable to feed them to?

A. All kinds; horses and swine not excepted. If they refuse them at first, let them become hungry, and they will soon eat them well. I have wintered swine on them, in a raw state. They are worth for them certainly as much as potatoes—and are most excellent for sheep.

What is the cost to raise them, per bushel, compared with potatoes?

A. Much less; as they yield much more on a given quantity of land; their seed and planting cost less; their hoeing more; and their leaves pay the harvesting.

Are they not more exhausting to the land than potatoes, or most other crops?

A. They are: as much more weight is taken from the soil than by most other crops. I think no one ought to object to having a large crop, because it takes more from the soil than an inferior one; but it should be known that Indian corn will not grow well the next year after a large crop of ruta baga, as each require from the soil similar qualities.

More hereafter, in relation to Ruta Baga, from A. B.

The season has arrived when farmers should be on the alert to prevent noxious weeds from seeding, and thus spreading over the land. It would undoubtedly be better to eradicate them thoroughly and at once, but in many cases this is nearly or quite impossible, and the only thing that can be done, is, as far as practicable, to prevent the extension of the evil.—This may in most cases be best done by cutting the weeds before the seed is sufficiently ripened to propagate the plant.

PRICES CURRENT.

ARTICLES.	Philadelphia, June 27.	Baltimore, June 27.	New York, June 27.	Boston, June 26.
Beans, white, per bush.	$1 37–1 62½	1 50—1 75	1 75—2 00	2 25—2 50
Beef, mess, new, per bbl.	14 00–15 00	13 00–14 00	13 50–14 50	15 50–16 50
Bacon, western, per lb.	7— 7½	7— 9	8— 10	.....
Butter, extra, per tub.	11— 14	16— 20	17— 19	14 — 18
Butter, fresh, per lb. (market,)	18— 25	25— 31¼	25— 31	.....
Hams, per lb.	12—	10— 12	10— 12	14— 15
Hog's Lard, per lb.	11— 12½	8— 10	8— 9	10— 11
Cheese, American, per lb.	10½— 11½	9— 11	10— 12	9— 13
Beeswax, yellow, per lb.	25— 27	23— 25	23— 25	25— 30
Beeswax, white	.....	38— 40	38— 40	38— 40
Bristles, American,	.....	25— 65	25— 65	.....
Flax, American,	.....	9— 10	.....	9— 12
Flour, best, per bbl.	8 00—9 00	7 75—9 00	9 00—9 25	8 00—9 00
GRAIN—Wheat, per bush. Penna.	0 00—0 00	.....	.....	.....
do. Maryland,	0 00—0 00	1 60—1 70	.....	.....
Rye, per bushel,	0 00—0 00	85— 90	—0 00	0 00—0 00
Corn, do.	96—1 00	90— 92	90— 95	1 07—1 09
Oats, do.	50— 58	48— 50	50— 60	62— 65
Barley, do. Penn.	.....	.....	.....	1 00—1 10
Peas, do.	1 00—1 25	— 8	.....	.....
HAY, Timothy, per 100 lbs.	1 05—1 20	14 00—	.....	22 50 pr ton.
Meadow Grass,	70— 90	.....	.....	.....
Hemp, American dry rot, ton,	175 00–	.....	—140	.....
Hops, first sort, 1836, lb.	9 — 10	— 9	7½— 8½	6— 7
Plaster Paris, per ton,	2 75—3 00	2 75—2 85	.....	2 00—2 25
SEEDS,—Cloverseed, per bushel,	5 00—6 25	6 00—6 50	.....	.....
Flaxseed, rough, do.	1 40—1 55	1 37—1 50	.....	.....
Timothy,	2 25—2 75	3 00—3 50	.....	2 87—3 12
Tallow, per lb.	8½— 10	— 11	9— 10	10— 11
WOOL—Saxony, fleece, per lb.	00— 00	50— 60	75— 80	65— 70
Merino,	00— 00	45— 50	50— 68	60— 65
1-4 and common,	00— 00	33— 36	35— 45	40— 45

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